GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4564
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2007
IMPACT OF WTO ON EXPORT- IMPORT
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been a net exporter of agricultural products and 1995 WTO agreement on agriculture was expected to improve India's agricultural trade;

(b) if so, whether the gap between agricultural export and import has been narrowing and import has an edge over export;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(d) the details of all agricultural products exported/imported during each of the last three years; and

(e) the details of cost and quantity of agricultural products exported/imported during the said period country-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) : Yes, Sir. India has been a net exporter of agricultural products. The long term objective of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture is to establish a fair and market oriented agricultural trading system in order to provide for substantial progressive reductions in agricultural support and protection resulting in correcting and preventing restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets. It was agreed in the Uruguay Round that in implementing their commitments on market access, developed country Members would take fully into account the particular needs and conditions of developing country Members like India by providing for greater improvement of opportunities and terms of access for agricultural products of particular interests to these Members. The signatories to the Uruguay Round Agreements also believed that the rules based multilateral trading system will strengthen the world economy and lead to more trade, including exports from developing countries, investment, employment and income growth throughout the world.

(b): Comparing the export value with respect to import value in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, the export value has exceeded the import value for agriculture products (including marine products)

(c) : Does not arise.

(d) & (e) : The main agricultural products exported from India are food grains (including basmati and non-basmati rice, wheat and other cereals), nuts and seeds, meat, poultry and dairy products, fruits and vegetables, processed foods, oil meals, tobacco and its products, spices, sugar etc. The main agricultural products imported into India include edible vegetable oils, pulses, nuts and seeds, spices etc.

India's export − import data of total agricultural products for the last three years is given below:

Quantity: Tonnes/ Value: US $ Million

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06 (Prov.)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Export	14937194	7532.24	14286227	8472.04	17202016	10197.33
Import	7702642	3694.16	7666259	3895.65	7064516	3634.33

Source: DGCI&S

The detailed information on India's export and import viz., country - wise and product − wise can be accessed on the website of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce i.e., http://docnic. The cost details of agriculture products exported / imported are not maintained. However, the unit price of exports and imports can be determined by dividing the total value of exports / imports of a product by the corresponding quantity exported / imported.